



Neither rain nor hail nor sleet nor snow: Provider perspectives on the challenges of weather for home and community care

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Abstract:

This paper contributes to the literature on the geographies of care and caregiving by examining the implications of weather for providing home and community care for children and older adults. Integrating research from two previous qualitative studies of formal and informal care provisioning in Ontario, Canada, the authors re-analyzed semi-structured interviews with 83 directors, managers, paid staff, volunteers and family members to examine the challenges they faced when providing care during the winter season. Similar to other settings where winter conditions like snow, ice and cold temperatures are commonplace, the studies were set within a health policy context in which there is not enough recognition of the difficulties of weather for coordinating, managing and providing care to disabled, injured, chronically ill and frail individuals. The re-analysis focused on how winter conditions translate into geographical, administrative, economic, operational, physical, social and psychological barriers within and across different 'scales of care'. The findings indicate that the problems posed by weather are crucial yet often underestimated aspects of home and community care provided by formal and informal caregivers. The analysis of weather-related challenges for care provisioning needs to be extended to other seasonal conditions (e.g., the challenges of delivering care in extreme heat), to the developing world and even to the burgeoning debates on the health implications of global environmental change.

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Resource Description

Communication: ☒

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience: ☒

audience to whom the resource is directed

Health Professional

Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

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Extreme Weather Event, Temperature

Extreme Weather Event: Other Extreme Event

Extreme Weather Event (other): Snow;Ice

Temperature: Extreme Cold

Geographic Feature: 

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified, Rural

Geographic Location: 

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Non-U.S. North America

Health Impact: 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact, Other Health Impact

Other Health Impact: Access to care

Medical Community Engagement: 

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: 

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status, Racial/Ethnic Subgroup

Other Racial/Ethnic Subgroup: Aboriginal people

Other Vulnerable Population: Disabled;Injured;Chronically ill;Frail individuals

Resource Type: 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Resilience: 

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capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified